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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,298	03/25/2004	Tetsuya Kurosawa	02887.0271	5493
22852	7590	04/05/2006	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			OSELE, MARK A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1734	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,298

Applicant(s)

KUROSAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Mark A. Osele

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9, 15-19 and 21-25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 10-14 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01312006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 6, 10-14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. Watanabe et al. shows a method and apparatus for peeling a pressure sensitive adhesive tape from a semiconductor wafer constituted by a plurality of semiconductor chips wherein the apparatus comprises a peeling mechanism with a sucking section having a porous member to hold the semiconductor wafer by suction, the porous member being segmented into a plurality of sucking areas in the direction in which the tape is peeled wherein the vacuum in each of the sections can be turned on and off (column 8, lines 25-36). After peeling of the tape the chips are lifted with a vacuum collet (column 6, lines 13-18).

Regarding claim 20, the claimed method does not require that the adhesive on the tape and the wafer are two separate adhesives.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and

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the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe et al. in view of Miyamoto et al. As shown in paragraph 2 above, Watanabe et al. shows the instantly claimed invention except for the heater in the apparatus. Miyamoto et al. teaches that wafer adhesive tapes can have their adhesive strength weakened by heat (column 16, lines 30-46). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a heater to the apparatus of Watanabe et al. so it can reduce the strength of the adhesive tape and make peeling of the tape easier.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 7-9, 15-19 and 21-25 are allowed.
6. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed December 28, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner first wishes to correct the record concerning the rejection regarding Watanabe et al. in view of Miyamoto et al. The previous office action indicated that this rejection was directed toward claims 3 and 7-9. This listing of

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claims was inaccurate and should have been claim 4 instead. This error would be obvious in that claim 4 is the only claim directed to the limitation of a heater, which is the teaching of Miyamoto et al. incorporated into Watanabe et al.

Secondly, the arguments directed toward claims 7-9 have been considered persuasive in that there is no suggestion in Watanabe et al. to add a cutter to the apparatus of Watanabe et al.

Third, the arguments directed toward claims 1-2, 6, 10-14, and 20 (as well as amended claim 3) are not persuasive for the following reasons. Limitations directed toward articles worked upon are not given patentable weight in an apparatus claim as long as the apparatus is capable of working upon those articles. In the instant application, the apparatus of Watanabe et al. can work upon a semiconductor wafer wherein each of the semiconductor chips has an adhesive layer on the rear surface thereof.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0205204 which is not prior art against the instant application and has one common inventor with the instant application shows a peeling apparatus wherein the holding mechanism has a porous member segmented into a plurality of sucking areas.

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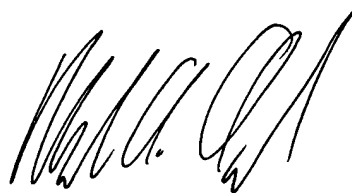
9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Osele whose telephone number is 571-272-1235. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Fiorilla can be reached on 571-272-1187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Osele', is positioned above the printed name and title.

MARK A. OSELE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

March 31, 2006